

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following new ABSTRACT:

A needle with fiber optic capability for spectrophotometric analysis includes a needle assembly including a needle body having an open tip and side radiation ports. A fiber optic element is disposed in the needle assembly for carrying electromagnetic radiation to the open tip area for transmission to a target area. Fiber optic bundles in communication with the radiation ports are disposed in the needle body for transmitting backscattered radiation to a light detector or sensor for spectrophotometric analysis. The needle assembly may include barbs for anchoring the device in place.